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AUTHOR Monteverde, Luisa
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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the semantic and structural characteristics of a basic pattern in English and discusses Spanish equivalents. A sentence-by-sentence analysis is made with consideration of transformations on the basic patterns in both languages. Translation and transformation complications in the two languages are illustrated. The equivalence types of the two languages are classified on the basis of the data presented here. Subclasses of the original English pattern are also listed. (VM)

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Luisa Monteverde:

Semantic and Syntactic Analysis of the Pattern

NP + be + adj + to + infinitive

and its Equivalents in Spanish (III)*)

4. Semantic Pattern SEMP-3

4.1 Basic example

(116) "JOHN IS CLEVER TO GO AWAY " ===)

(117) "To go away is clever of John" ===)

(118) "It is clever of John to go away."

The Spanish equivalents are:

(116') "Juan prudentemente se va."

(116") "Juan es prudente al irse."

(117') "(El) irse es prudente por parte de Juan" ===)

(118') "Es prudente por parte de Juan (el) irse."

4.2 Description of the semantic structure

The grammatical subject is the actor of the infinitive activity. The adjective expresses a quality of the actor with respect to his action.

*) Parts I and II of this study appeared in: L. & C. nº38, Dec.1970 and L. & C. Vol.XI,nº 1, March 1971.

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4.3 Illustration of the pattern by a Kunze-Graph

In the graph shown as Fig. 3 it can be seen that the adjective "clever" is considered to be an element requiring the two arguments AR1 (John) and AR2 (to go away).

4.4 More examples

(119) "Richard was bright to accept this offer."

(120) "To accept this offer was bright of Richard" ===)

(121) "It was bright of Richard to accept this offer."

Spanish equivalents:

(119') "Ricardo fue muy listo al aceptar esta oferta."

(119") "Ricardo estuvo muy listo al aceptar esta oferta."

There is a slight difference in meaning between sentence (119') and 119"): In sentence (119") "estuvo" expresses surprise. It should also be noted that the adverb "muy" may not be omitted if "listo" is to maintain the same meaning:

(119"') "Ricardo estuvo listo al aceptar esta oferta"

means:

(119"") "Richard was ready when he accepted the offer."

(120') "El aceptar esta oferta fue muy inteligente por parte de Ricardo" ===)

(120") "Fue muy inteligente por parte de Ricardo aceptar esta oferta."

If sentences (119') and (119') are transformed into

(122) "Al aceptar esta oferta, Ricardo fue (estuvo) muy listo (inteligente)" ,

the meaning has become slightly different:

(122') "When Richard accepted this offer, he did a bright thing."

(123) "Muy inteligentemente, Ricardo aceptó la oferta"

is the most acceptable Spanish equivalent of sentences (119) - (121).

(124) "John was brilliant to do this work within an hour."

(125) "To do (to have done) this work within an hour was brilliant of John" ===)

(126) "It was brilliant of John to do (to have done) this work within an hour."

Spanish equivalents:

(124') "Juan estuvo brillante al hacer este trabajo en una hora."

(125') "El hacer este trabajo en una hora fue brillante por parte de Juan" ===)

(126') "Fue brillante por parte de Juan el hacer este trabajo en una hora."

It should be noted that "estuvo" cannot be used in sentences (125') and (126').

(127) "The boy was careless to spend all of his money."

(128) "To spend all his money was careless of the boy" ===)

(129) "It was careless of the boy to spend all his money."

Spanish equivalents:

(127') "El muchacho fue (estuvo) descuidado al gastar todo su dinero."

(127") "El muchacho se descuidó al gastar todo su dinero."

(128') "El gastar todo su dinero fue un descuido del muchacho."

(129') "Fue un descuido del muchacho gastar todo el dinero."

(129") "Fue descuidado por parte del muchacho el gastar todo su dinero."

Not all of these equivalents are equally acceptable.

(130) "Alan was polite (civil) to help us."

(131) "To help us was polite of Alan" ===)

(132) "It was polite of Alan to help us."

Spanish equivalents:

(130') "Alan fue(estuvo) cortés a ayudarnos.

(131') "El ayudarnos fue cortés por parte de Alan" ===)

(132') "Fue cortés por parte de Alan el ayudarnos."

(133) "John was correct to grade the papers."

(134) "In grading the papers, John was correct" ===)

(135) "John was correct in grading the papers."

It should be noted that sentences (124) and (135) may have a meaning that is different from the one of sentence (133):

(136) "When John corrected the papers he was correct"

i.e. he did the grading in a proper way, while sentence (133) expresses that the fact that John graded the papers is considered appropriate. A better version of (136) would be the following:

(137) "When John corrected the papers he was fair."

Spanish equivalents:

(133') "Juan actuó bien en calificar los trabajos."

(133") "Juan hizo bien en calificar los trabajos

(137') "Juan fue (estuvo) correcto al calificar los trabajos'

(137") "Juan calificó los trabajos con justicia."

(138) "He was evil to kill that poor woman."

(139) "To kill that poor woman was evil of him" ===)

(140) "It was evil of him to kill that poor woman."

Spanish equivalents:

(138') "El fue malvado al matar a esta pobre mujer."

(138") "El fue malvado para matar a esta pobre mujer."

(139') "Para matar a esta pobre mujer, él fue malvado."

(140') "Fue malvado por parte de él el haber matado a esta pobre mujer."

(141) "She is frank to tell her age."

(142) "To tell her age is frank of her." ===)

(143) "It is frank of her to tell her age."

Spanish equivalents:

(141') "Ella es franca al decir su edad."

It should be noted that the linking-verb "ser" cannot be replaced by "estar":

(141") *Ella está franca al decir su edad.'

(142') "Decir su edad es franco por parte de ella' ===)
(143') "Es franco por parte de ella decir su edad."

(144) "He was bold to ask money from his parents."
(145) "To ask money from his parents was bold of him" ===)
(146) "It was bold of him to his parents fro money."

Spanish equivalents:

(144') "El fue descarado (estuvo) al pedir dinero a sus padres."
(145') "Pedir dinero a sus padres fue descarado por parte de él" ===)
(146') "Fue descarado por parte de él pedir dinero a sus padres."

(147) "He was good to return the money he found."
(148) "To return the money he found was good of him" ===)
(149) "It was good of him to return the money he found."

Spanish equivalents:

(147') "El fue honrado al devolver el dinero que encontró."
(148') "Devolver el dinero que encontró fue honrado por parte de él" ===)
(149') "Fue honrado por parte de él devolver el dinero que encontró."

(150) "He is gross to speak in that way."
(151) "To speak in that way is gross of him" ===)
(152) "It is gross of him to speak in that way."

Spanish equivalents:

(150') "El es grosero al hablar de ese modo."

(151') "Hablar de ese modo es grosero por parte de él" ===)

(152') "Es grosero por parte de él hablar de ese modo."

(153) "He is irresponsible to drive so fast near the school."

(154) "To drive so fast near the school is irresponsible of him" ===)

(155) "It is irresponsible of him to drive so fast near the school."

Spanish equivalents:

(153') "El es irresponsable al manejar tan rápido cerca de la escuela."

(154') "Manejar tan rápido cerca de la escuela es irresponsable por parte de él" ===)

(155') "Es irresponsable por parte de él manejar tan rápido cerca de la escuela."

(156) "He is unjust to give those grades."

(157) "It is unjust of him to give those grades" ===)

(158) "To give those grades is unjust of him."

Spanish equivalents:

(156') "El es injusto al dar esas calificativos."

(157') "Es injusto por parte de él dar esos calificativos" ==)

(158') "Dar esos calificativos es injusto por parte de él."

(159) "He is kind to give money to the beggar."

(160) "To give money to the beggar is kind of him" ===)

(161) "It is kind of him to give money to the beggar."

Spanish equivalents:

(159') "El es bondadoso al dar dinero al mendigo."

(160') "Dar dinero al mendigo es bondadoso por parte de él" ===)

(161') "Es bondadosos por parte de él dar dinero al mendigo."

(162) "He is <u>mean</u> to treat his younger sister so badly."

(163) "To treat his younger sister so badly is mean of him" ===)

(164) "It is mean of him to treat his younger sister so badly."

Spanish equivalents:

(162') "El es desconsiderado al tratar a su hermana menor tan mal."

(163') "Tratar a su hermana menor tan mal es desconsiderado por parte de él. ===)

(164') "Es desconsiderado por parte de él tratar a su hermana menor tan mal."

(165) "He is <u>nice</u> to bring flowers for my mother."

(166) "To bring flowers for my mother is nice of him" ===)

(167) "It is nice of him to bring flowers for my mother."

Spanish equivalents:

(165') "El es gentil al traer flores para (a) mi madre."

(166') "Traer flores para mi madre es gentil por parte de él" ===)

(167') "Es gentil por parte de él traer flores para mi madre."

(168) "He is right to indict his partneer."

(169) "To indict his partner is right of him" ===)

(170) "It is right of him to indict his partner."

Spanish equivalents:

(168') "El actua bien en enjuiciar a su socio."

(168") "El hace bien en enjuiciar a su socio.'

(168"') "El actua (hace) bien, enjuiciando a su socio."

(169') "Enjuiciar a su socio fue correcto por parte de él" ==)

(170') "Fue correcto por parte de él enjuiciar a su socio."

(171) "He is stupid to leave his little daughter alone at home."

(172) "To leave his little daughter alone at home is stupid of him" ===)

(173) "It is stupid of him to leave his little daughter alone at home."

Spanish equivalents:

(171') "El es tonto al dejar a su hijita sola en casa."

(172') "Dejar a su hijita sola en casa es tonto por parte de él" ===)

(173') "Es tonto por parte de él dejar a su hijita sola en casa."

(174) "She is sweet to take care of the baby.'

(175) "To take care of the baby is sweet of her" ===)

(176) "It is sweet of her to take care of the baby."

Spanish equivalent:

(174') "Ella es buena al cuidar el bebé.'

There are, of course, more adjectives in this class: "fair", "wrong", "reasonable", etc.

4.5 Classification of the equivalence types

We shall number the different structural types of our examples as follows:

English:

1e: N + be + adj + to + inf

2e: to + inf + be + adj + of N

3e: it + be + adj + of N + to inf

4e: N + be + adj + in + V^{ing}

5e: in + V^{ing} + N + be + adj

Spanish:

1s1: N + ser + adj + al + inf

1s2: N + estar + adj + al + inf

1s3: N + ser + muy + adj + al + inf

1s4: N + estar + muy + adj + al + inf

2s1: inf + ser + adj + por parte de + N

2s2: inf + ser + muy + adj + por parte de + N

2s3: para + inf + ser + adj + por parte de + N

3s1: ser + adj + por parte de + N + inf

3s2: ser + muy + adj + por parte de + N + inf

4s1: N + adv + finitivo

4s2: N + muy adv + finitivo

5s1: adv + N + finitivo

5s2: muy + adv + N + finitivo

6s: N + V^{fin}_{adj} + al + inf

7s: inf + ser + N_{adj} + de + N

8s: ser + N_{adj} + de + N + inf

9s: N + V^{fin}_{adj} + bien + en + inf

10s: N + V^{fin}_{adj} + bien + V^{ndo}

In these formulae V^{fin}_{adj} means that the lexical meaning of the adjective is expressed by a verb in finite form.

On the basis of the descriptions given above we can then form subclasses of SEMP-3, which are determined by the type of adjetive ocurring in it. For the sake of simplicity, we shall consider only the transformations 2e and 3e, and hence assume only one pattern in English. On the basis of the examples given we can establish the following sub-classes of SEMP-3:

SEMP-3-1: 1s1, 2s2, 3s2, 4s1,5s1

SEMP-3-2: 1s2, 2s2, 3s2, 4s2, 5s2,

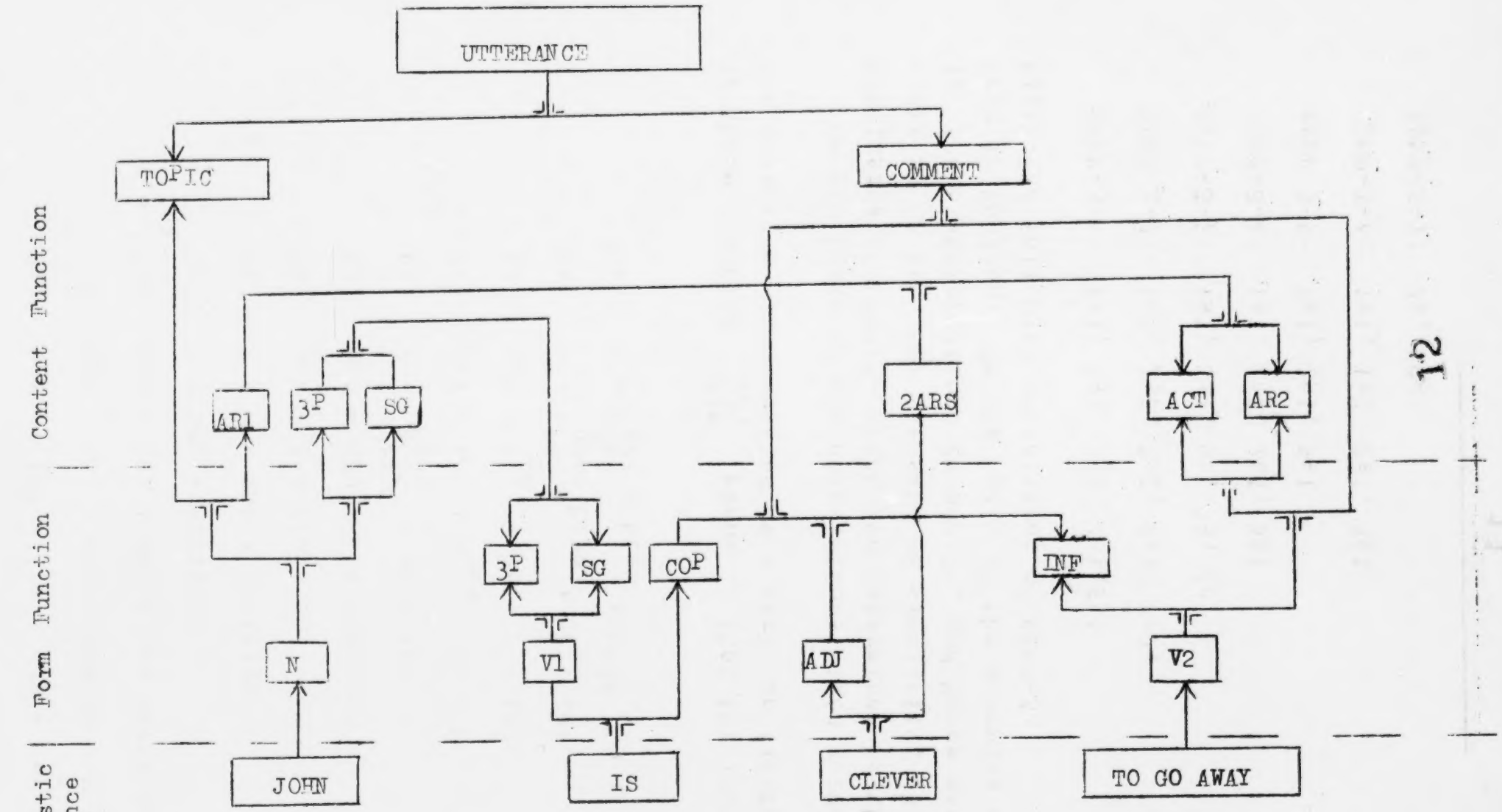
SEMP-3-3: 1s1, 3s1, 6s, 7s, 8s

SEMP-3-4: 1s1, 1s3, 2s3, 3s1

SEMP-3-5: 1s1, 2s1, 3s1

SEMP-3-6: 1s1, 1s2, 2s1, 3s1

SEMP-3-7: 9s, 10s



Symbols:

2 ARS	... 2 arguments	AR1	... 1st argument	AR2	... 2nd argument
SG	... singular	CO^P	... coPula	V1	... 1st verb
INF	... infinitive	N	... noun	3^P	....3rd Person
ADJ	... adjective	V2	... 2nd verb	ACT	... action

Fig. 3 :